

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03432 052219Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 051954Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4387

UNCLAS BOGOTA 3432

PASS TO USDOC

EO 11652: NA

TAGS; BENC, CO

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS PETROCHEMICALS

REF: STATE 053942, 75 BOGOTA A-108

1. PRIORITIES IN THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY ARE SHIFTING. PROJECTS WITH GAS FEED STOCK WILL RECEIVE A HIGHER PRIORITY IN THE FUTURE. IN THE SHORT-TERM ECOPETROL'S TIGHT FINANCIAL POSITION WILL DELAY MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES IN THE PETROCHEMICAL FIELD. THEREFORE RAPID PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANDEAN PACT PETROCHEMICAL ASSIGNMENTS IS NOT LIKELY; FOR INSTANCE, THE CALI DMT PLANT AND THE FERTICAL FACILITIES PROJECT HAVE BEEN INDEFINITELY DELAYED.

2. THE STATUS OF THE PROJECTS WHICH ARE GOING FORWARD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE BALANCE PLANT, THIS PROJECT IS PROGRAMMED FOR 1978. THE DETAILED DESIGN HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND ECOPETROL HAS BEGUN BUYING EQUIPMENT. THE LAND IS ALMOST PREPARED.

B. BARRANCABERMEJA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: THE DETAILED DESIGN HAS BEEN COMPLETED BY TECHNIPETROL AND EQUIPMENT IS BEING BOUGHT.

C. CARTAGENA HDPE PLANT: ECOPETROL IS DOING THE DESIGN ITSELF. THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE MANAGED BY TECHNIPETROL PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT WILL BEGIN EARLY IN 1977.

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D. THE GUAJIRA AMMONIA PLANT: THE ECONOMIC STUDIES ARE ALMOST COMPLETE. ECOPETROL AND TEXACO, WHO WILL BE PARTNERS IN AT LEAST ONE AMMONIA PLANT, ARE DISCUSSING PROJECTS WITH POTENTIAL INVESTORS. IT HAS STILL NOT BEEN DECIDED IF THERE WILL BE TWO ONE-THOUSAND-TONS-PER-DAY AMMONIA PLANTS OR JUST ONE. INTERESTED INVESTORS SHOULD CONTACT TEXACO OR ECOPETROL.

E. ETHYLENE PLANT: BIDS TO CONDUCT ENGINEERING WERE RECEIVED FROM CTP, LUMMUS AND SRAMPOGEDEI AND ARE CURRENTLY FROM CTP, SUMMUS AND BEING STUDIED. THE RESULTS SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN APRIL.

3. U. S. ENGINEERING CONTRUCTIONS AND EQUIPMENT COMPANIES INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE ABOVE PROJECTS OR WHO WANT TO REGISTER THEIR INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS SHOULD WRITE TO ALBERTO DEL CASTILLO, VICE-PRESIDENT, INGENIERIA Y PROYECTOS, ECOPETROL, CARRERA 13 NO. 36-24, BOGOTA, D. E. COLOMBIA.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BOGOTA03432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760128-0488
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760498/aaaadgfd.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 53942, 76 BOGOTA A-108
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECTS PETROCHEMICALS
TAGS: BENC, CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006